

THE
**FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS**

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: FRLA

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

It was Frederick Law Olmsted Junior, writing from his desk at "Fairsted" in Brookline, MA, who crafted the key words of the National Park Service's 1916 legislation: ". . . which purpose is to conserve the scenery & the natural & historic objects & the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner & by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." That this beacon of a mission statement, which has proven so treasured and durable, was written by a member of the Olmsted family, working from the family home and business office, which today is Olmsted National Historic Site, is a fact far better known to landscape aficionados outside the NPS than to the 20,000 people who serve within it.

Our Centennial vision for Olmsted National Historic Site has as its keystone the goal of educating all our publics, both inside and outside of the NPS, about the crucial roles that the Olmsteds (Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., John Charles Olmsted, and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.) played in the conception and then the realization of the park idea in the United States, with particular emphasis on their influence in the creation of the National Park Service itself. This goal will be achieved in a variety of ways, through a special section in proposed new park exhibits (by 2012), through a new introductory film to Olmsted NHS (by 2013), through a publication to be sent to all NPS Superintendents (2016) , and through a special segment on the FRLA Website dedicated to the Olmsteds and the park idea. Anchored in the Olmsted's life work of creating and stewarding parks will be our curriculum-based education program "Good Neighbors," proposed as a Centennial project.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Myra F. Harrison

